

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 NSC-07 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 IO-14 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /180 W

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R 091938Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6760

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1919

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, XL

SUBJ: THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1235

1. EDWIN CARRINGTON, DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE AND INTEGRATION DIVISION OF THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT, VISITED TRINIDAD RECENTLY AND SPOKE TO AN AUGUST 6 LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LOCAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY. ALTHOUGH HIS TALK WAS GENERALLY A TOUR D'HORIZON OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION IN THE CARIBBEAN, HE MADE A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC COMMENTS OF INTEREST SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

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2. EEC-ACP MEETING IN KINGSTON: CARICOM DELEGATIONS SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE, THAT OF GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL. CARRINGTON SAID THIS WAS FIRST TIME THAT CARICOM HAD AGREED ON A SINGLE SPOKESMAN AT SUCH A SENSITIVE MEETING, AND HE FELT THIS ENABLED THE CARICOM DELEGATION TO MAKE A MAJOR INPUT INTO THE ACP DELIBERATIONS.

3. U.S. GSP: CARRINGTON SAID THAT THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT IS STUDYING THE BENEFITS WHICH THE GSP SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE IF CARICOM APPLIED FOR TREATMENT AS A SINGLE UNIT. HE REFERRED TO THIS AS "CUMULATIVE TREATMENT", SAYING THAT MATERIALS PRODUCED BY DIFFERENT MEMBERS COULD BE COMBINED TO MEET THE VALUE-ADDED CRITERION, AND NOTING THAT SUCH TREATMENT WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT OF THE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROCESS.

4. COMMON POLICY ON FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT: CARRINGTON STRESSED THAT LOCAL CONTROL OF ALL NATURAL RESOURCES IS A BASIC TENET OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, AND SAID THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAD SUBMITTED DRAFT PAPERS ON A COMMON FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY TO THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN ST. LUCIA. A WORKING PARTY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO STUDY THE QUESTION AND FORMULATE A COMMON POLICY.

5. ACCESSION TO CARICOM BY ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA: HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE ST. LUCIA MEETING HAD UNANIMOUSLY URGED ST. KITTS PREMIER BRADSHAW TO SIGN THE CARICOM TREATY DESPITE THE BRITISH STIPULATION REGARDING ANGUILLA, WHICH HE DID THE FOLLOWING WEEK AT THE ACP MEETING IN KINGSTON (BRIDGETOWN 1319). ACCORDING TO CARRINGTON, THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO REACTION FROM HMG.

6. HAITIAN MEMBERSHIP, AND THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR STUDY. CARRINGTON SAID THAT THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF ACCESSION BY NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING STATES DESERVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, NOTING THAT THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY INVOLVES FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION AND FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION IN ADDITION TO THE COMMON MARKET. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS "CERTAIN" THAT SURINAM WOULD APPLY FOR CARICOM MEMBERSHIP UPON

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ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE.

7. COMMENT: CARRINGTON MADE NO REFERENCE AT ALL TO CARICOM SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM DEMAS' IMPENDING DEPARTURE TO ASSUME HIS NEW POSITION AT THE CDB. CARRINGTON DID URGE, HOWEVER, SAYING THAT MANY UNFOUNDED CRITICISMS HAD STEMMED FROM AN ABYSMAL IGNORANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE TREATY FOR THE PROCESSES OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

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